

REMARKS

Claims 5-16 are pending. Claims 6-16 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner for being directed to a non-elected species. By this Amendment, drawing Figure 1 and Claim 5 are amended. No new matter is presented.

The Office Action requires a proper drawing correction in reply to the Office Action. Enclosed herein is a formal drawing of Figure 1, including the proposed drawing correction submitted by the Applicants on February 7, 2001 and approved by the Examiner in the Office Action.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) because the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The Office Action notes the holding and the fixing of the fixed end of the lower portion of the pulling glass member body by the first holding member must be shown of the feature cancelled from the claim. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection.

Pending Claim 5 is corrected to recite the second (and not the first) holding member, which is located below the electric furnace, grips and affixes (or holds and fixes) the fixed end portion of the lower portion of the pulling glass member as discussed, for example only, on page 22, lines 6-9 of the originally filed application. With respect to the Office Action requiring the drawings recite the feature of the fixed end of the lower portion of the pulling glass member body being held and fixed by the second holding member, Applicants respectfully note page 23, lines 8-10 of the originally filed application state that the gripping member 6 for gripping and affixing the fixed end portion of the pulling glass member is for example a well known three-claw chuck. Furthermore, page 5, lines 6-9 of the originally filed application state one end

portion of the pulling glass member is gripped and affixed by a gripping member including a three-claw chuck, which is shown in originally filed drawing Figure 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit the drawing figures include the feature recited by pending Claim 5 in question and that one of ordinary skill in the art would know how to make, use, and/or sell the invention recited by pending Claim 5.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit Claim 5 has been amended responsive to the rejection.

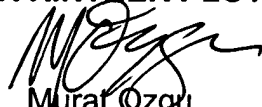
As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejection, allowance of Claim 5, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 103203-00003.**

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Replacement Figure 1
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